Policy has also been announced for de-bottlenecking/revamp/ modernization of existing urea units, which will be allowed only if the additional production comes from using natural gas/LNG as feedstock.

Government has also formulated a policy for conversion of existing naphtha/FO/LSHS based urea units to natural gas/LNG as feedstock. The plants based on naphtha/FO/LSHS are less energy efficient and have a higher production cost. Therefore, the policy encourages an early conversion to natural gas/LNG so that they acquire a competitive edge in the deregulated and liberalised economic scenario. With a view to encouraging investments for switchover to NG/LNG as feedstock, the investor is assured that savings on account of energy efficiency after conversion would be retained by the plants for a maximum period of 5 years in respect of naphtha based plants and 10 years in respect of FO/ LSHS based plants.

Sex determination clinics

*503. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are thousands of Ultrasound Clinics in the country for conducting prenatal sex determination test; and

(b) whether Government are monitoring those Ultrasound Clinics which are violating the guidelines issued by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) There are 26199 Units registered in the country under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994. State/UT-wise details is given in the Statement *(See* below)

(b) Yes, Sir. The Implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as Sub-district levels. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of

foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to preconception selection of sex.The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act. As on 31.3.2005, there are 303 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police for various violations of the law. 33 ultrasound machines are also sealed and seized on violation of the law. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancellation of registration and license.

Statement

Number of units registered under Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 as on 31.3.2005

SI.	State/UT No.	No. of units* registered
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Andhra Pradesh	2141
2	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3	Assam	258
4	Bihar	457
5	Chhattisgarh	318
6	Goa	100
7	Gujarat	2269
8	Haryana	893
9	Himachal Pradesh	179
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4
11	Jharkhand	116
12	Karnataka	1842
13	Kerala	960
14	Madhya Pradesh	988

1	2	3
15	Maharashtra	4784
16	Manipur	25
17	Meghalaya	22
18	Mizoram	12
19	Nagaland	5
20	Orissa	279
21	Punjab	1212
22	Rajasthan	960
23	Sikkim	11
24	Tamil Nadu	2680
25	Tripura	42
26	Uttaranchal	276
27	Uttar Pradesh	2538
28	West Bengal	873
29	A. & N. Island	6
30	Chandigarh	66
31	D. & N. Haveli	7
32	Daman & Oiu	12
33	Delhi	1805
34	Lakshadweep	9
35	Pondicherry	36
	TOTAL	26199

*Includes Genetic Counseling Centres,Genetic Laboratories,Genetic Clinics, Mobile Clinics (Vehicles), Ultrasound Clinics/Imaging Centres, Joint Genetic Counseling Centres/ Gen. Labs/Gen. Clinic, Mobile Clinics (Vehicles) and Other bodies/IVF Centres/Infertility Centres.